

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

The invention involves identification of a mechanism of  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide cytotoxicity, which enables treatment of conditions caused by  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide aggregates by administration of compounds which antagonize the mechanism of cytotoxicity. The  
5 invention includes the identification and isolation of compounds which can reduce the neurotoxic effects of such aggregates. Methods for treating conditions resulting from neurotoxic  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide aggregates, such as Alzheimer's disease and pharmaceutical preparations are provided. Also provided are methods for selecting additional compounds which can reduce the neurotoxic effects of  $\beta$ -amyloid aggregates.

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